

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS EPAP, ELAB, CA

SUBJ INDUSTRY AND UNION REACTION TO SPECIAL MEDIATOR PROPOSAL
TO END B.C. FOREST INDUSTRY STRIKE

REF: VANCOUVER 645

1. ALL PARTIES HAVE RESPONDED TO SPECIAL MEDIATOR HUTCHEON S
NON-BINDING RECOMMENDATIONS TO END FOREST INDUSTRY STRIKE.
INDUSTRY -SSOCIATION REPRESENTING MOST COMPANIES HAD QUOTE
RELUCTANTLY END QUOTE ACCEPTED RECOMMENDATIONS. 13000 PULP
WORKERS HAVE REJECTED OFFER IN VOTE TAKEN THIS WEEK. THEY WERE
URGED TO DO SO BY THEIR UNIONS, THE CANADIAN PAPERWORKER UNION
(CPWU) AND THE PULP, PAPER AND WOODWORKERS OF CANADA (PPWC).
INTERNATIONAL WOODWORKERS OF AMERICA (IWA) EXECUTIVE HAS ASKED
ITS 37000 MEMBERS TO ACCEPT HUTCHEON REPORT, BUT SEVERAL IWA
LOCALS HAVE CALLED ON THEIR MEMBERS TO REJECT IT. IWA VOTE
RESULTS SHOULD BE KNOWN BY SEPTEMBER 1.

2. HUTCHEON REPORT RECOMMENDS DOLS 1.55 PER HOUR INCREASE OVER
TWO YEARS ON DOLS 5.10 BASE. IWA HAS ASKED FOR DOLS 1.00 PER
HOUR INCREASE OVER ONE YEAR AND CPWU AND PPWC HAD ASKED FOR
DOLS 1.50 PER HOUR INCREASE OVER SAME PERIOD. INDUSTRY HAD
OFFERED COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT ONLY.

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EM PREVIOUSLY UNITED BARGAINING FRONT AMONG ALL THREE UNIONS BROKEN

RECENTLY BY PPWC PICKETING OF PLANTS OPERATED BY IWA MEMBERS.
PPWC SAYS IT WILL NOT ESCALATE PICKETING UNTIL AFTER RESULTS
OF IWA VOTE ARE KNOWN. PPWC AND CPWU HAVE BEEN ON STRIKE
SINCE JULY 16. IWA MEMBERS STILL WORKING ALTHOUGH 15000
AFFECTED BY LAYOFFS AND PICKETING.

4. UNIONS HAVE ALL WARNED PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT AGAINST LEGISLATING
ANY SETTLEMENT. B.C. LABOR MINISTER BILL KING SAID HE QUOTE
WOULD HAVE TO LET COLLECTIVE BARGAINING TAKE ITS COURSE END
QUOTE. PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT REVENUES DEPEND HEAVILY ON
FORESTRY ROYALTIES AND INCOME GENERATED BY FOREST INDUSTRY,
MOST IMPORTANT SECTOR OF B.C. ECONOMY.
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